

## Press Release for Chicago Park District – Kids Learn to Ride



Got a kid who hasn't yet learned to ride a bike? We got you! The Chicago Department of Transportation's education team is partnering with the Chicago Park District this summer to offer free Learn to Ride classes for children ages 6 to 12.

Chicago's SAFE Ambassadors have been offering Learn to Ride classes designed for adults since 2016. Last year we premiered child-focused classes in partnership with the Chicago Park District and 44 children learned how to ride a bicycle. In 2023, Kids Learn to Ride expands year-round to support the youngest Chicagoans and help

them stay safe and active as they grow up. Each 2-hour class will be facilitated by our peer-to-peer educators known as Junior Ambassadors, who are Park District recreation leaders.

Children already enrolled in the Chicago Park District's Day Camp programs will get priority when signing up for classes. Once slots have been filled with Day Camp participants, we will open up registration to others in the areas where we host classes. Starting June 13 and ending August 1, we will have classes for 6 weeks at the following locations and dates: McKinley Park and Washington Park on Tuesdays, Portage Park on Wednesdays, and Humboldt Park on Thursdays.

Parents or guardians registering a child will need to supply a bicycle that is fully functional and the right size for the child (see chart below). The Ambassadors will provide a new helmet for each child, as well as perform a customized helmet fitting. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, each child will go home with their new helmet.

Each class can accommodate 6 children, and parents must stay onsite during the lessons. Reservations are required and granted on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, go to the form at the QR code or link (<https://forms.gle/C6z7Kh9kipsBRZa19>).

If you have questions about the SAFE Ambassadors' free Kids Learn to Ride classes, contact Angel Montalvo, [angel@chicagocompletestreets.org](mailto:angel@chicagocompletestreets.org), or Ambrasia Warner, [ambrasia.warner@samschwartz.com](mailto:ambrasia.warner@samschwartz.com). To make sure the bike you have is appropriate and ready for your child to learn on, we will be sharing a video after signup. Your local bike shop is the best place to go to ensure you've got the right bike in ready-to-ride condition. **No training wheels, please!**



On Tuesdays, classes will be at *McKinley Park (2210 W. Pershing Road)* soccer field area, on South Western Blvd., near the corner of Pershing Road. It is encouraged to park on Pershing Road, near the corner of Leavitt St, or in the park's lot, which entrance is down Pershing Road, also near the corner of Leavitt St, by the McKinley Park Fieldhouse.



On Tuesdays, classes will be at *Washington Park (5531 S. Martin Luther King Dr.)* in a closed-off section of the parking lot. The entrance of the lot is down Russell Drive, near the corner of East Garfield Blvd and Morgan Drive (By the cross streets of South MLK Dr. & East Garfield Blvd.). It is encouraged to park in the lot, or on South Martin Luther King Dr., near the corner of East 56th St. ***\* In the case of inclement weather, classes will take place in the Washington Park Fieldhouse gym.***

On Wednesdays, classes will be at the *Portage Park (4100 N. Long Ave)* Soccer Cage area, near the corner of Berteau and Long Avenues (navigate to 5457 W. Berteau, parking in the lot to the west). You can access the lot by entering on Berteau Ave., near the corner of Linder Ave. The parking lot is right next to the soccer area.

Thursdays, classes will be at *Humboldt Park (1440 N. Humboldt Blvd.)* Soccer Cage area, near the corner of West Hirsch Dr., and Luis Munoz Marin Dr., (by the cross streets of Kedzie Ave and West Hirsch Dr.) Parking is encouraged on Luis Munoz Marin Dr., near the corner of West Hirsch Dr., just south of the Little Cubs Field.

2-4 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	4-6 YEARS	5-8 YEARS	7-11 YEARS	+10
HEIGHT	HEIGHT	HEIGHT	HEIGHT	HEIGHT	HEIGHT
82 - 100 cm 2' 8" - 3' 3"	98 - 106 cm 3' 3" - 3' 6"	104 - 122 cm 3' 5" - 4' 0"	120 - 130 cm 3' 11" - 4' 3"	127 - 142 cm 4' 2" - 4' 8"	140 - 158 cm 4' 7" - 5' 2"
INSIDE LEG	INSIDE LEG	INSIDE LEG	INSIDE LEG	INSIDE LEG	INSIDE LEG
30 - 40 cm 12" - 16"	36 - 44 cm 14" - 17"	40 - 54 cm 16" - 21"	52 - 59 cm 20" - 23"	57 - 66 cm 22" - 26"	64 - 70 cm 25" - 28"

Here is the schedule:

**McKinley (Tuesday)**  
June 13, 20, 27;  
July 11, 18, 25;  
August 1

**Washington (Tuesday)**  
June 13, 20, 27;  
July 11, 18, 25;  
August 1

**Portage (Wednesday)**  
June 14, 21, 28;  
July 5, 12, 19, 26  
August 2

**Humboldt (Thursday)**  
June 15, 22, 29;  
July 6, 13, 20, 27  
August 3